

**Revelation 6:1-17**  
**Heads Up!**

**Warm Up**

How do you respond to people when they ask, "How can there be a good and loving God when there is so much suffering?" There are strong theological responses we can give but do they hit the spot when someone is suffering?

**Background and context**

In the previous chapter, Revelation 5, Jesus holds the scroll which is God's plan to achieve His purposes. At a simple level, these are twofold: 1. To call wicked people to repent and receive salvation. 2. To defeat evil and bring in God's Kingdom. Jesus is the only one found worthy to bring about God's plan. Here in chapter 6 we see Jesus begin to reveal how God will achieve His purposes. The chapter is famous and depicts the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Many scholars have debated the interpretation of these horsemen and when they will appear. The plan Jesus reveals begins from His resurrection and ends at His return. These horsemen are already here! With the hindsight of two thousand years we can see the impact of these horsemen in the world. The 6th seal is yet to come, the dissolution of the earth in preparation for recreation.

**Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity**



**READ Revelation 6:1-17.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. The number four in scripture often refers to the earth in its entirety. What does this mean with regards to the impact of the four horsemen?
2. The first horse is white. Find other examples of white in Revelation. Is it positive or negative? What does this mean for how we might interpret the white horse?
3. **Read/scan Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21.** Some say the white horse is the Gospel being preached in all the world, and Jesus speaks about this and the "last days." (After His ascension). Where can you see references to the four horsemen?
4. What does the fifth seal reveal? What is it about? Is it happening today?
5. The persecuted cry out to God for justice. What is God's response? Is it wrong to plead with God for justice?
6. **Read v12-17.** What is it describing? Who is hiding to escape God's wrath?
7. Why would people rather be crushed by rocks than face Jesus' judgement?

**Discipleship and Application**



8. God has two ways of dealing with the wicked. Mercy and wrath. The wicked cry out "who can stand?" (v17) Who will stand in the face of God's mercy? Where do you stand? How should this impact your life now?



**Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.**

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.